

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 CAB-05 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OC-06
CCO-00 CU-04 IO-13 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 SY-05 SCA-01
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R 221450Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480
INFO TREASURY DEPT, WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USODOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT EFIM
SUBJECT: ITALAN LABOR DEVELOPMENTS: ROME STRIKE; GOI-CCU TALKS
ON "FISCALIZATION" DECREE.

REF.: A) ROME 4427; B) ROME 4613

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 23 ROME GENERAL STRIKE (REF.A) WILL NOT
AFFECT AIRPORT TRAFFIC. OTHER TRANSPORT WORKERS WILL STRIKE DURING
MORNING. MOST EMPLOYEES WILL STRIKE FOR 24 HOURS, BUT
ESSENTIAL SERVICES (HOSPITALS, UTILITIES, ETC.) WILL BE MAINTAINED.
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ROME STRIKE IS DELAYED PORTION OF MARCH 18 NATIONAL STRIKE.
UNION RALLIES IN MANY CITIES MARCH 18 WERE MARRED BY STUDENT
HECKLING AND SCUFFLES; CGIL SEC GEN LAMA'S SPEECH AT NAPLES WAS
TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED. SIMILAR STUDENT DISORDERS MAY MAR
ROME RALLY, STUNNED BY HARDER GOI STAND INSISTING ON "FISCALIZATION"
DECREEE PROVISIONS MODIFYING WAGE ESCALATOR SYSTEM AND PENALIZING
NEGOTIATED COMPANY LEVEL WAGE INCREASES (REF. B), SEVERAL UNION

LEADERS HAVE SPOKEN OUT INTRANSIGENTLY. CCU-GOI MEETING EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK. CCU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONVOKED STARTING MARCH 23 TO ASSESS GOI-CCU MEETING RESULTS AND DECIDE ON SUBSEQUENT ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. 24-HOUR ROME AND LAZIO REGION GENERAL STRIKE MARCH 23 WILL INCLUDE INDUSTRY, NATIONAL, REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, BANKS, SCHOOLS, MOVIES AND SERVICES. AIR TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE STRIKE. GROUND TRANSPORT WILL STRIKE ONLY DURING THE MORNING:RR, 1000-1200; INTER-REGIONAL BUS AND MUNICIPAL TRANSIT, 0900-1200. HOSPITALS AND UTILITY EMPLOYEES WILL MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES, BUT EMPLOYEES PERFORMING ROUTINE OR POSTPONEABLE TASKS WILL STRIKE.

3. CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) RALLY IN ROME WILL FEATURE ALL THREE SECGENS (LAMA,MACARIO AND BENVENTO) AS SPEAKERS. COMMUNIST ROME MAYOR ARGAN AND ROME ALDERMEN WILL STRIKE AND PARTICIPATE IN RALLY. STUDENT MOVEMENT OFFERED TO PARTICIPATE IN RALLY, BUT ONLY IF ONE OF STUDENTS FUGITIVE FROM POLICE AFTER MARCH 12 RIOTS WERE ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITHOUT PRIOR EDITING OF HIS SPEECH. UNION-STUDENT NEGOTIATIONS FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT. STUDENTS HAVE THREATENED TO HOLD CONCURRENT DEMONSTRATION NEARBY, UNIONS HAVE GOVERNMENT PERMISSION FOR THEIR MARCH 23 RALLY.

4. TURNOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE AT RALLIES IN VARIOUS CITIES DURING MARCH 18 NATIONAL STRIKE, GENERAL IN SOUTH (EXCEPT ROME AND LAZIO--DELAYED TO MARCH 23 AS EXPLAINED IN REF.A) AND AT MILAN, UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITED TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND CERTAIN OTHER CATEGORIES IN NORTH. MANY OF RALLIES WERE MARRED BY STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND RESULTANT SCUFFLES. MOST NOTABLE OF THESE DISTURBANCES WAS IN NAPLES WHERE COMMUNIST CGIL SEC GEN LUCIANO LAMA WAS INTERRUPTED BY ABOUT 200 STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE REPORTEDLY BEATEN AND EXPELLED BY POLICE AND UNION "SERVICE OF ORDER". COMMUNIST METAL WORKER LEADER BRUNO TRENTIN WAS SIMILARLY HEACKLED AT BOLOGNA. DISTURBANCES WERE AVOIDED AT THE MILAN RALLY, ADDRESSED BY UIL SEC GEN GIORGIO BENVENUTO, AFTER STUDENT WAS PERMITTED TO SPEAK USING TEXT CLEARED BY UNIONS. HOWEVER, MARAUDING STUDENTS DAMAGED EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL FIRM (MAGNETI MARELLI) ELSEWHERE IN MILAN.

5. MARCH 18 NEWS OF CONTENT OF IMF "LETTER OF INTENT", SIGNALING GOI'S EVIDENT DETERMINATION TO INSIST ON "FISCALIZATION" DECREE PROVISIONS "STERILIZING" VALUE ADDED TAX (IVA) INCREASES, SO THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE COMPENSATED VIA THE COST-OF-LIVING ESCALATOR, AND "BLOCKING" COMPANY-LEVEL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY PENALIZING COMPANIES NEGOTIATING WAGE INCREASES, ENRAGED MANY

IN UNIONS AND EVOKED INTRANSINGENT INDIVIDUAL PRESS COMMENTS
TO THE PRESS BY MANY UNION LEADERS, INCLUDING BENVENUTO AND UIL
METAL UNION LEADER VINCENZO MATTINA. UNION OPTIMISM
FOR COMPROMISE AGREEMENT TO MODIFY DECREE IS NOW DIMINISHED,
BUT SOME IN UNIONS HOPE THERE IS SUFFICIENT GIVE IN GOI
POSITION WHICH WOULD ALLOW SPACE FOR COMPROMISE. CCU SECRETARIAT
MET MARCH 21 TO PREPARE FOR ENCOUNTER WITH GOI EXPECTED THIS WEEK.
CCU POSTPONED CONVOCAION OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MARCH
23. COMMITTEE WILL REMAIN IN PERMANENT SESSION TO HEAR RESULTS
OF CCU-GOI ENCOUNTER AND DECIDE ON COURSE OF ACTION.GARDNER

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